

the acid (carboxyl) and/or anhydride functional groups: by reaction with glycidyl methacrylate or vinyl or allyl alcohol or a hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate.

12. Cancelled.

13. (Original) The composition of Claim 9, wherein the reactive functional groups of the microparticles are carboxylic acid and/or anhydride functional groups in the presence of (meth)acrylate and/or allyl and/or vinyl functional groups.

14. (Original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the thermosetting composition comprises:

- a) at least one unsaturated polyester and/or at least one unsaturated polyester modified by a poly-isocyanate and/or at least one vinyl ester,
- b) at least one copolymerizable comonomer carrying at least one α,β -ethylenic unsaturation chosen from vinylaromatic and/or (meth)acrylic and/or allyl monomers,
- c) optionally at least one second monomer carrying at least two reactive functional groups, one of which can polymerize by the radical route and the other by a condensation reaction,
- d) 0.5-50% and preferably from 5 to 25% by weight of reactive crosslinked microparticles of Claim 1.

15. (Original) The composition as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said microparticles carry at least one (meth)acrylate or hydrogen maleate functional group.

16. (Original) The composition as claimed in Claim 15, wherein said microparticles can be obtained by a first polymerization stage starting from:

- i) 10-40 mol% of Cardura E10 (meth)acrylate,
- ii) 10-75 mol% of butyl and/or tert-butyl and/or 2-ethylhexyl and/or 2-(2-ethoxyethoxy)ethyl (meth)acrylate and of styrene, with a molar ratio of styrene to (meth)acrylic monomers varying from 0 to 0.2,

- iii) 5-40 mol% of hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate, maleic anhydride, (meth)acrylic acid or glycidyl methacrylate,
- iv) 2-10 mol% of hexanediol and/or propylene glycol and/or neopentyl glycol and/or trimethylolpropane (meth)acrylate,
- with the sum of the molar percentages of all these constituents i)+ii)+iii)+iv) being equal to 100, followed by a second stage of at least partial chemical modification of the starting reactive functional groups according to:

- the starting hydroxyl functional groups to hydrogen maleates by reaction with maleic anhydride and/or to (meth)acrylates by reaction with (meth)acrylic acid,
- the starting epoxy functional groups to (meth)acrylates by reaction with (meth)acrylic acid,
- the acid functional groups to methacrylate by reaction with glycidyl methacrylate,
- the anhydride functional groups to (meth)acrylates and residual acids by reaction with a hydroxyethyl or hydroxypropyl (meth) acrylate or with glycidyl methacrylate.

17. (Original) A coating comprising the composition of Claim 1.

18. (Original) The coating of Claim 17, wherein said coatings are protective coatings for electrical or electronic components, items or devices.

19. (Previously amended) The thermosetting composition of Claim 1 applied to molded items and of items made of composite materials.

20. (Original) A thermoset matrix obtained from the thermosetting composition of Claim 1.

21. (Original) A protective coating, molded item or item made of composite materials obtained from the thermosetting composition of Claim 1.